

**Amendments to the Claims:** This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a ~~flame barrier composition~~ comprising a flame retardant composition, the method comprising the steps of :
  - a) reacting an ethyleneamine or a mixture of ethyleneamines with polyphosphoric acid and forming a two phase mixture comprising a viscous syrup that comprises the flame ~~barrier-retardant~~ composition, and a non-viscous phase; and
  - b) separating the syrup from the non-viscous phase.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which the polyphosphoric acid has been prepared by ion exchange.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2 in which the ethyleneamine or a mixture of ethyleneamines is selected from the group consisting of ethylenediamine, diethylenetriamine, piperazine, triethylenetetramine, tetraethylenepentamine, pentaethylenehexamine, aminoethylpiperazine, and mixtures thereof.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3 in which the ethyleneamine is a mixture of ethyleneamines.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 ~~any preceding claim~~ in which the ~~flame barrier composition-syrup~~ has a pH of 1. 7 to 7. 0.
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 ~~any preceding claim~~ additionally comprising, after step b):
  - c) drying the syrup and forming a dried syrup.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 in which the dried syrup, dried to a water content of less than 0.5%, has a weight loss of less than 1.5% at 315°C in a TGA run at 20°C per minute in nitrogen.
8. (Original) The method of claim 6 additionally comprising, after step c),

d) the step of adding an ethyleneamine or a mixture of ethyleneamines to the dried syrup.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 ~~any preceding claim~~ in which the polyphosphoric acid is prepared from sodium polyphosphate that has an average chain length of at least 10.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~A flame barrier composition comprising a flame retardant composition, the composition prepared by the method of any of claims 1 to 9:~~

a) reacting an ethyleneamine or a mixture of ethyleneamines with polyphosphoric acid and forming a two phase mixture comprising a viscous syrup that comprises the flame retardant composition, and a non-viscous phase; and

b) separating the syrup from the non-viscous phase;

in which the polyphosphoric acid has been prepared by ion exchange.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~The flame barrier composition of claim 10 in which the concentration of the flame retardant composition in the~~ composition comprising the flame barrier retardant composition is greater 45 wt%.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~A method for forming a flame barrier composition comprising a flame retardant,~~ the method comprising the steps of

a) reacting an ethyleneamine or a mixture of ethyleneamines with polyphosphoric acid and forming a reaction mixture comprising the ~~flame barrier~~ retardant composition; and

b) adding an ethyleneamine or a mixture of ethyleneamines to the reaction mixture.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~A flame barrier composition comprising a flame retardant~~ formed by the method of claim 12.

14. (Currently Amended) A flame barrier polymer comprising:

a) 30 to 99.75 percent by weight of a polymer or a mixture of polymers ; and

b) 0.25 to 70 percent by weight of ~~the a flame barrier composition of prepared by the method of any of claims 6 to 9:~~

reacting an ethyleneamine or a mixture of ethyleneamines with polyphosphoric acid and forming a two phase mixture comprising a viscous syrup that comprises the flame barrier composition, and a non-viscous phase, in which the polyphosphoric acid has been prepared by ion exchange;

separating the syrup from the non-viscous phase; and

drying the syrup and forming a dried syrup.

15. (Currently Amended) The flame barrier polymer of claim 14 in which the polymer or mixture of polymers is flame barrier polymer ~~comprises : 20 to 95 wt% of a polymer selected from the group consisting of polycarbonate, polyphenylene oxide, polyphenylene sulfide, and mixtures thereof; 20 to 95 wt% of a polymer selected from the group consisting of nylon 6, polybutylene terephthalate, polyethylene terephthalate, acrylic polymers, ABS, high impact polystyrene, and mixtures thereof; and 0.5 to 20 wt% of the flame barrier composition of prepared by the method of any of claims 6 to 9.~~

16-19. (Canceled)